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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Branch
821 Market Street, Room 615
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 6, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 3--- As the result of cold weather, cabbage stands alone as the "best buy" in vegetables.

Cauliflower (higher), celery, and spinach comprise the fair buys this week.

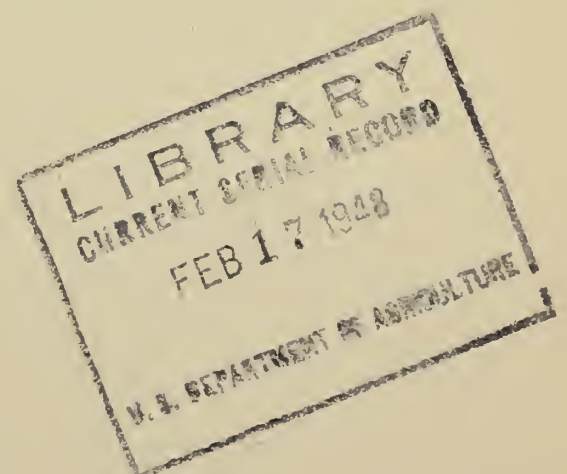
All selling at higher prices are artichokes, broccoli, carrots, lettuce, onions, potatoes, and a fair supply of tomatoes.

Soft squashes are scarce and high because of the damage inflicted upon them by the colder weather in major producing areas.

In the fruit department, apples (particularly Watsonville Newtowns) and small and medium-sized oranges are the best buys.

Grapes -- mostly Emperors and a few Tokays -- grapefruit, and winter pears are fair buys.

Large oranges are higher priced.



1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed analysis of the results obtained in the first part.

3. The third part is devoted to a discussion of the results obtained in the second part.

4. The fourth part is devoted to a discussion of the results obtained in the third part.

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14. The fourteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the results obtained in the thirteenth part.

15. The fifteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the results obtained in the fourteenth part.

Wholesale prices are lower on beef, lamb, fresh pork, and on hams and bacon. During this past week, prices dropped \$1.00 on Good grade steer and heifer beef carcasses and fully \$2.00 on cow beef. Generally, supplies were more than ample. Sales on heavier supplies of Good and Choice lamb were as much as \$1.00 lower in instances. Liberal supplies of fresh pork accumulated in spots and sold \$2.00 to \$4.00 lower, while both No. 1 grade smoked skinned hams and slab bacon were \$1.00 to \$2.00 lower. On veal, supply and demand was pretty well balanced, with quality running mostly Good to Commercial, and prices unchanged. Lwe mutton was in very light supply and fair demand.

Grade A(92 Score) butter is up 1-cent from last week on the wholesale market at 89 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) remains at 86 cents. Retail sales continue on a downward trend and are below last year at this time. Margarine sales, on the other hand, are at a high level. The trend in western production is also down.

Eggs of all sizes are in liberal supply. Grade "A" Mediums and Smalls are selling 2 cents below last week at 46-47 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen and 41-42 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, respectively. Grade "A" Large eggs are unchanged at 50-51 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen, as are Grade "B" Large at 49-50 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Price ups and downs on the poultry market include a 1-cent-per-pound drop on both live and dressed Leghorn and colored fowl. Colored fryers are up 1 to 2 cents on both live and dressed weights; old roosters are 1-cent higher alive and 1 to 3 cents higher dressed; and dressed tom turkeys are selling 1-cent higher. There are liberal supplies of large fryers and roasters, but only light supplies of broilers.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 13, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 10--- Prices are higher on practically all fruits and vegetables. Unfavorable weather is having its effects, especially on vegetables.

Cabbage remains the only "best buy" in vegetables.

Cauliflower and celery are both higher priced but still "fair buys," along with mushrooms and spinach.

Artichokes, snap beans, onions, potatoes, and sweet potatoes are all selling at higher prices this week.

Broccoli is high; bunched vegetables are relatively high; carrots are down a little but still high, as are peppers.

Soft squashes remain scarce and high.

Prices on lettuce go up and down from day to day. Although today's price is slightly below last week's price, the trend is still upward.

Apples continue take top place as a "best buy." Small oranges are up a little in price, but are still classed as a good buy.

Fruits in the "fair buy" class are grapefruit (higher), grapes (slightly higher), and pears.

Large oranges are selling higher.

MORE

A look at meat this week reveals that there are liberal amounts of beef and pork selling at prices on a downward trend. And prices are barely holding their own on hams and bacon. It's expected that there will be some accumulation of both beef and pork supplies. Steer beef is mostly of Good grade, while heifer beef is running Commercial to Good. Light supplies of Good and Choice veal and calf are in fairly broad demand at unchanged prices. Good and Choice grades of lamb are about equal to demand, with prices unchanged. Light supplies of ewe mutton are also unchanged in price.

Grade A(92 Score) butter has gained another cent to sell on the wholesale market at 90 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) is still holding at 86 cents. But it's expected that the drop in Eastern market prices will be reflected in lower Pacific Coast prices. Production in the West is now on the increase.

Eggs are abundant, with the surplus being put into storage. Improvement in Central Western markets has made for a steadier local market, so that all Grade "A" eggs are unchanged in price from last week. Grade "B" Large eggs are 2 cents lower at 47-48 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen.

Poultry prices tend to be lower, as demand is only moderate for quite liberal supplies. Both live and dressed colored roasters are 1-cent lower per pound. Dressed Leghorn fowl weighing over 4 pounds is down 1-cent. And dressed young turkey hens are selling 1 to 2 cents lower.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 20, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17--- Labeled as "best buys" in vegetables this week are cabbage at unchanged prices and mushrooms at considerably lower prices.

In comparison with prices on other vegetables, cauliflower, celery (slightly higher), and spinach are "fair buys."

Soft squashes are scarce and high.

Carrots are higher this week, as are onions and sweet potatoes.

Artichokes are still high; broccoli's high; lettuce is high; peppers and tomatoes are a shade lower but still high.

There's no change on potatoes -- they remain high.

Apples (especially California Newtowns) continue to top the list of "best buys" in the fruit department, with small oranges in second place.

It's the last call for grapes as a "fair buy". Grapefruit and pears remain in this class.

No change on large oranges.

Under the influence of higher prices in Eastern markets and an improved local demand, egg prices are higher on all grades except Grade "A" Large. Grade "A" Mediums are up 2 cents at 48-49½ cents per dozen, as are Grade "A" Smalls at 43-44½ cents. Grade "B" Large eggs are 1-cent higher at 48-49½ cents per dozen.

There's very little change from last week in the poultry market. Larger supplies of young chickens (broilers) and colored fowl are selling at prices 1-cent lower on both live and dressed weights.

MORE

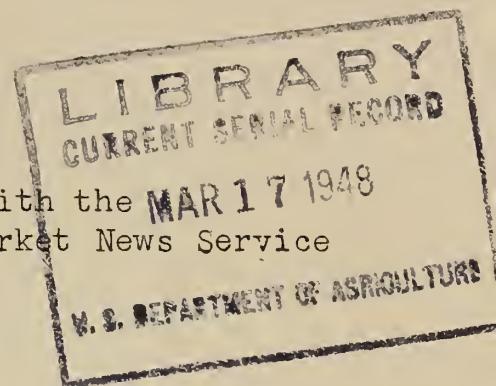
Grade A(92 Score) butter is quoted 6 cents per pound below last week at 84 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) is down 5 cents at 81 cents per pound. This price drop has been induced by lower Eastern market prices and the sharp price break in other commodities, such as grain, lard, and cottonseed oil. There has been very little change in production. The moderate supplies are about equal to demand.

Generally, meats are in liberal supply. Ewe mutton is scarce. And veal and calf supplies of Good and Choice grades are moving fairly readily at about an even pace with demand. There is somewhat of a lag in the demand for other meats, though. Very liberal supplies of fresh pork accumulated in some places this past week, while prices dropped fully \$1.00 on fresh loins and fresh hams and \$1.00 to \$2.00 on pork carcasses. Prices are also \$1.00 to \$2.00 lower on very liberal supplies of smoked skinned hams and No. 1 bacon. Very liberal supplies of beef have not had daily clearance, with the result that prices are on a downward trend. Steer beef is mostly of Good grade. Commercial and Good grades of heifer beef are selling around \$1.00 below prices on steer beef. There's a very liberal supply of Utility cow beef. Supplies of largely Good and Choice grades of lamb have had a tendency to exceed their demand, with prices barely holding their own.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 27, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24---- Prices are lower on several vegetables this week. Cauliflower has come down enough to be classed as a "best buy" with cabbage and mushrooms.

Tagged as "fair buys" are celery, spinach and peppers, considering the season of the year.

High-priced vegetables that are selling at slightly lower prices include artichokes, carrots, lettuce, and rhubarb.

Broccoli is still high; soft squashes remain scarce and high; and there's no change on tomatoes.

Onions and potatoes remain unchanged at fairly high prices.

Hints that spring will soon be here are evidenced in the first shipments of asparagus coming from the Delta District -- at a high price, of course.

There's no change in the "best buys" on fruit. Apples, especially California Newtowns, and small oranges still head the list.

Grapefruit and pears are "fair buys."

Avocados remain high.

Grapes are scarce.

All butter markets were unsettled last week. Prices were very erratic and reflected the uncertainty of both buyers and sellers. San Francisco's wholesale prices are up 1-cent above last week. Grade A(92 Score) is quoted at 85 cents per pound, Grade B(90 Score) at 82 cents.

MORE

Egg prices are unchanged from last week. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted on the wholesale market at 50-51 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen, Mediums at 48-49 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, Smalls at 43-44 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and Grade "B" Large at 48-49 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents. Production has been lagging in most West Coast areas, but it's expected that warmer weather should result in heavier supplies. At present, supplies are ranging from moderate to fairly liberal.

All classes of poultry are in plentiful supply. The only price change from last week is a 1-cent drop on both live and dressed Leghorn fowl weighing 4 pounds and over.

With the exception of veal and calf, plentiful supplies of meat were priced somewhat lower on the San Francisco wholesale market last week. A fairly liberal amount of Good steer beef from outside the Bay area was offered. And cow beef was fairly plentiful. Prices tended to be lower, with some sales down \$1.00. On calf and veal, supplies were barely equal to their moderate demand at unchanged prices. Ample supplies of fed lamb -- mostly of Good and Choice grades -- sold at somewhat lower prices. A few coolers offered spring lamb. But there was very little demand for it, and prices dropped a full \$2.00. Fresh pork cuts have continued in very liberal supply, with some accumulation evident. Prices pointed downward last week. Smoked skinned hams were offered more freely. Supplies of bacon became more liberal. Prices on both were \$2.00 to \$4.00 lower.

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